

Closeout of M90040018

This case originated with a letter to OIG [REDACTED], [REDACTED] received on March 22, 1990, from [REDACTED] (the complainant), formerly a [REDACTED] at the Department [REDACTED], University [REDACTED]. He wrote about "a situation that happened to me that is in my opinion major research misconduct. It was brought about by the attitude of one professor, who was a recipient of NSF grants [REDACTED] program [REDACTED] and [REDACTED] and one Graduate student".

Specifically, the complainant, who was working on his doctorate and had finished all requirements for the degree except for dissertation, alleged that a graduate student "began to exhibit unprovoked and unnecessary aggression toward me, including tampering with my experiments at least three times".

In 1982, the complainant, [REDACTED], was working as a graduate assistant to [REDACTED], the subject, who took over the position vacated by the complainant's former thesis adviser who had died. The complainant worked under the subject for three years experimenting on [REDACTED] (by monitoring [REDACTED] in a period of one to two years) as his Ph.D thesis. The complainant alleged that when his experiments on [REDACTED] were destroyed by another graduate assistant of the subject, the subject did not do anything about it. Because of all these events, the complainant believed that he acquired "manic depression" and "acute anxiety". He further wrote: "the major source of this anxiety was the way I was being treated by this professor and his student and the resulting damage to me".

OIG contacted (after many attempts) and talked with the complainant to get more information about this allegation. OIG asked the complainant to comment on the following specific questions:

1. Is there anyone who can support the complainant's story?
2. Could the complainant provide OIG with names of witnesses who actually have seen the incidents and who can verify the exact dates and places of the incidents?

The complainant promised OIG that he would write or call soon to answer these questions. However, four months have passed and the complainant has made no effort to communicate with OIG.

Under the circumstances, due to lack of information and our limited resources, OIG has decided to close this case.

[REDACTED]
[REDACTED]
September 18, 1991

CC: Inspector General (IG)
Assistant IG for Oversight

MRT

JB

90-18